

REMARKS

[0002] Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of the application. The status of the claims is as follows:

- Claims 1-3, 5-15, and 17-38 are currently pending
- Claim 4 is canceled herein
- No claims are withdrawn herein
- Claims 1, 3, 9, 12, 34, and 36 are amended herein
- No claims are added herein

[0003] Additionally, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments to the claims place all claims into condition for allowance. (See *MPEP* §714.12).

Allowed Claims

[0004] The Office Action indicates that claims 15 and 17-33 are allowable. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 15 and 17-33. These claims have not been amended herein, and therefore remain in condition for allowance.

[0005] Claim 4 is objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. The Examiner has indicated that this claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claims from which it depends. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this indication. Claim 4 is rewritten herein in independent form and is, therefore, in condition for allowance.

Cited Documents

[0006] The following documents have been applied to reject one or more claims of the Application:

- Herrmann: U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0167984 A1
- Atkinson: U.S. Patent No. 6,519,764

Rejections of Claims 1-3, 5-14, and 34-38 are Moot because Independent Claims 1, 9, and 34 Have Been Rewritten to Include Allowable Subject Matter

[0007] Claims 1, 3, 6-13, and 34-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Herrmann. Further, claims 2, 5, 14 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Herrmann and further in view of Atkinson. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 1-3, 5-14, and 34-38 are moot because independent claims 1, 9, and 34 have been rewritten to include subject matter indicated as allowable in the Office Action. For example, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims, claims 2-3 and 5-8, are allowable because claim 1 has been rewritten to include the allowable subject matter of claim 4 as indicated on page 5 of the Office Action. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 9 and its dependent claims, claims 10-14, and independent claim 34 and its dependent claims, claims 35-38, are allowable because claims 9 and 34 have been rewritten to include the features of claim 15, which is indicated as allowed on page 5 of the Office Action.

[0008] Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-3, 5-14, and 34-38 are allowable because the cited documents do not teach or suggest all of the features of claims 1-3,

5-14, and 34-38 and Applicant asks the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of these claims.

Conclusion

[0009] Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned representative for the Applicant before issuing a subsequent Action.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Representative for Applicant

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